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SOURCE Hwanghae Rodong Sinmun.

DISCUSSES NORTH KOREAN METHODS  
OF TRIAL AND PUNISHMENT OF COLLABORATORS

This report explains the public trials of collaborators, forms of public punishment known as Tumun (literally, to shut the gate), and Kunsin (domiciliary confinement), and the methods of confiscation and disposition of collaborators' property.

Public trials are convened by people's committees, and the villagers elect a presiding chairman and jury. Both Tumun and Kunsin deprive a person of freedom of movement. The properties of persons who have fled with the enemy are redistributed to poor farmers or used for war-relief purposes. Grain belonging to a collaborator may be used to supplement military needs.

The following article explains in a question-and-answer form some of the Communist-instituted methods of punishing collaborators which are new to the North Korean populace.

Q. Who are tried at public trials?

A. Persons who collaborated with the enemy when the enemy temporarily occupied the territory of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are tried at public trials. They include those who, through collaboration with the enemy, persecuted patriotic persons, government personnel of the People's Republic, and their families. Needless to say, those who did not personally commit the murder of patriots but who nevertheless sold patriots or their families to the enemy or in any other way helped the enemy, shall be put to public trial.

Q. Who organizes public trials and how?

A. First, a general meeting of the villagers is called, and a presiding chairman for the public trial and a jury of two members must be elected. The trial chairman and the jury, who represent the people in the trial of traitors, must be men of intelligence, justice, patriotism, and public confidence, who are

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loyal to the people and to the country. The chairman of the local people's committee concerned may convene a public trial. Several days in advance, he shall announce that the public trial will be held, giving pertinent information such as the defendant's name, age, place of permanent domicile, present address, occupation, a brief account of his offense, date and place of the trial, etc.

Q. What authority do the participants [excluding the accused] have?

A. The participants may at any time present evidence, witnesses, and testimony. The accused may answer the charges and argue his case. Participants of public trials may decide on whether the accused is guilty or not guilty, whether to refer the case to the people's court, and if it is not to be sent to the people's court, what form of public punishment is to be administered.

Q. What is the nature of public punishment known as Tumun and Kunsin?

A. Tumun is a form of social sanction which prohibits a person from all freedom of movement for a given period of time, except for the necessary trips to and from work and trips to public offices made in compliance with summons. The person under Tumun punishment must display at all times during the punishment period a Tumun-punishment sign, written plainly in red on a white cloth, 3 centimeters wide and 7 centimeters long, attached horizontally on the outer clothing over the right chest. He must also display a Tumun sign on the gate of his home (where there is no gate, on the house where it is visible from the street). The Tumun punishment period is from 3 to 6 months.

Kunsin is also a form of social discipline under which a person is strictly prohibited freedom of movement, but is not required to wear a special sign. The period of Kunsin is from one to 3 months. The names of those who have received Tumun or Kunsin punishment and whose repentance is evident and whose loyalty to the People's Republic is shown and recognized, may be completely cleared 6 months after the termination of punishment period in case of Tumun and 3 months in case of Kunsin, in accordance with the decision of the public trial in that locality.

Q. How is the property of the traitors who have collaborated and fled with the enemy confiscated and disposed of?

A. The real estate, personal property, and grain of the collaborators shall be disposed of in accordance with Cabinet Decision No 190. Each provincial people's committee and the Seoul city and P'yongyang city people's committees shall record all real and personal property of collaborators. The confiscation of the property so recorded at the office of the people's committee shall be decided upon by the village or ward meeting of loyal citizens. The decision is subject to approval by the chairman of city or county people's committee before it is effective.

The confiscation of property must be handled with extreme care. The property of the citizens who are forced by the enemy to flee shall not be confiscated. In a situation where only the head of a family or members of a family have fled, the grain necessary for food and seed for spring sowing may not be confiscated from the members of the family who have not fled.

All of the confiscated property will be redistributed to poor farmers and war-ravaged people. All confiscated grain not yet harvested or thrashed shall be harvested and thrashed cooperatively. The amount needed by poor farmers for their spring sowing shall be distributed to them first, and the remaining grain shall be used to supplement the regular supply of the Korean People's Army and the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces.

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